

The Noble Acts Newly found, Of Arthur of the Table Round.

To the Tune of, *Flying Fame.*

When Arthur first in Court began,
and was approb'd King.
By force of arms great victories won,
and conquest home did bring,
Then into Britain strait he came
where fifty stout and able
Knights, then repaired unto him
which were of the round Table.
And many Jests and Turnaments
before him there were prest,
wherein these Knights did then excell,
and far surmount the rest.
But one Sir Lancelot du Lake,
who was approb'd well,
He in his fights and deeds of arms,
all others did excel.
When he had rested him a while,
to play, and game, and sport.
He thought he would approve himself
in some adventurous sort:
He armed rode id Forest wide,
and met a Damoysel fair,
who told him of adventures great,
whereunto he gave good ear.
Why should I not (quoth Lancelot tho)
for that cause come I hither:
Thou seem'st, quoth she a Knight right good
and I will bring thee thither,
whereas the mightiest Knight doth dwell,
that now is of great fame:
wherefore tell me what Knight thou art
and then what is thy name,
My name is Lancelot du Lake,
quoth she, it likes me then,
He dwells a Knight that never was
o'er matcht of any man,
who hath in Wyson threescore Knights,
and some that he hath bound,
Knights of King Arthur's Court they be,
and of the Table round.
She brought him to a River then,
and also to a Tree,
whereas a Copper Balon hung,
his fellows shields to see.
He struck so hard the Balon broke,
when Tarquin heard the sound,
He drove a horse before him strait,
whereon a Knight was bound.
Sir Knight (then said Sir Lancelot)
bring me that horse-load hither,
And lay him down and let him rest,
we'll try our force together:
For as I understand thou hast,
as far as thou art able,
Done great dispright and shame unto
the Knights of the round Table.
If thou art of the Table round,
quoth Tarquin speedily,
Both thee and all thy fellowship,
I utterly desie.
That's overmuch quoth Lancelot tho,
defend thee by and by,

They put their Spurs unto their Steeds
and each at other flew,
They couch their Spears and Horses run,
as though they had bern thunder,
And each struck then upon the Shield,
wherewith they brake asunder.
Their Horses backs brake under them
the Knights were both astoned.
To void their horses they made haste
to light upon the ground:
They took them to their shields full fast,
their Swords they drew out then,
With mighty stroaks most eagerly
each one at other run
They wounded were and bled full sore
for breath they both did stand,
And leaning on their Swords a while,
quoth Tarquin hold thy hand.
And tell to me what I shall ask,
say on, quoth Lancelot tho,
Thou art quoth Tarquin the best Knight
that ever I did know,
And like a Knight that I did hate,
so that thou be not he,
I will deliver all the rest
and eke accord with thee.
That is well said, quoth Lancelot then,
but sith it so must be:
What is the Knight thou hatest so,
I pray thee show to me:
His name is Sir Lancelot du Lake,
he slew my Brother dear,
Whom I suspect of all the rest,
I would I had him here.
Thy with thou hast, but now unknown,
I am Lancelot du Lake,
Now Knight of Arthur's Table round
Kings Hands Son of Benwake:
And I desie thee, do thy worst,
ha, ha, quoth Tarquin tho,
One of us two shall end their Lives
before that we do go.
If thou be Lancelot du Lake,
then welcome shalt thou be,
wherefore see thou thy self defend,
for now I do thee Desie.
They huddled then together fast,
like two wild Boars so rashing,
And with their Swords & shields they ran,
at one another flashing,
The ground besprinkled was with Blood
Tarquin began to faint,
For he had backt and boze his Shield
so low he did repent,
That soon espyed Sir Lancelot tho,
he leapt upon him then:
He pall'd him down upon his knee,
and rushed off his Helm:
And then he struck his neck in two,
and when he had done so,
From prison threescore Knights and four,
Lancelot delivered tho.